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REPPLIER, AGNES. *Philadelphia, The Place and The People*. Pp. xxi, 392. Price, \$1.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

It is difficult to place Miss Repplier's story, "Philadelphia, The Place and The People," under any of the familiar categories which we find in libraries. It is not fiction, biography, or travel, and least of all, is it history as we ordinarily use the term. If we would call it literature we should neglect the delightful story of the development of Philadelphia, and if we called it history we should not be taking into consideration its literary value or the personality of the author. Let us attempt the impossible and define it as a delightful narration of historical facts.

Philadelphia, from the day the first colonists sought peace in the forests of Sylvania to the present time, is laid before the reader in fascinating word pictures. Miss Repplier takes us into the homes of the early citizens and shows us how they worked and lived and played, and how unconsciously they made history. She tells us of the quiet, peace-loving Quakers, the stolid, industrious Germans and the troublesome Scotch-Irish; of the Penns, the Logans, the Shippens; of Franklin, and of Morris and of Girard; and all in such a familiar yet respectful way, that we feel as if a very intimate mutual friend had taken us around to call.

We learn from this book of the littler things, the idiosyncrasies, as it were, of men and women, of whom in larger histories we hear but a word and that in connection with some much greater event. Histories usually show us men and women as they appeared in a movement or a cause, but Miss Repplier with clever pen, keen insight, much wit, and deeper sympathy, presents the great men of Philadelphia to us in such a way, that we feel that we have really met them and have gone along home to dinner.

And yet through all the book runs the undercurrent of authentic historical data. Never for a moment do we doubt the author's accuracy. We hear the echoes of the Indian Wars in the neighboring colonies, we hear the rumblings of the Revolutionary cannon and smell the powder from nearby battlefields. We hear the wheels of industry being forged and later see Philadelphia become the greatest of manufacturing cities.

To the Philadelphian, indifferent, perhaps ignorant as well, of the great heritage which is his, this book is a revelation. To those without the gates, it should serve to dispel that erroneous opinion of Philadelphia's lack of progress, which her citizens have done so little to refute or explain.

ALBERTA MOORHOUSE GOUDISS.

Philadelphia.

ROBERTS, PETER. *The New Immigration*. Pp. xix, 386. Price, \$1.60. New York: Macmillan Company, 1912.

Imagine a group of American citizens, interested in public problems, and particularly in the question of immigration, gathered for discussion. In the midst of this group, imagine a man of broad human sympathy and keen powers of observation, equipped with a wide personal experience with the foreign-born and a large accumulation of information about them. Imagine this man discoursing informally with the group about him, giving them his impressions and

convictions on the subject of immigration, and answering their queries freely and without reserve. Finally, imagine a verbatim report of this conversation incorporated into a book of four hundred pages, and you will have a very good idea of the character of Dr. Roberts' new book. One who picks up the volume in the spirit of a member of such an inquiring group will find much to interest, inform, and awaken him. But one who turns to this book for an authoritative and thorough-going critical study of the problem of the new immigration will be disappointed. The spirit of careful analysis of mooted questions is absent. The language is colloquial, and sometimes incorrect. The historical allusions and some of the technical terms are not always accurate—as when the author speaks of the Physiocratic fallacy regarding the importance of gold (p. 13), or uses the term "deportation" where he means debarment or exclusion (p. 21). Many inconsistencies occur in the sweeping statements made. Worst of all, the statistics are not accurate. A single example of this must suffice. On page 49 the author makes the statement that "the percentage of farmers and farm laborers in this new stream is sixfold what it was in the old," and in a footnote adds that this percentage among the old immigration was 10.7. The basis for this statement is furnished by a table of figures taken from the Report of the Immigration Commission giving the European occupations of immigrants engaged, at the time the investigation was made, in the manufacturing and mining industries of the United States. This is evidently no fair indication of what the character of the old immigration was in this respect. More than this, the author admittedly leaves the Irish out of the count, because they were preponderantly agricultural. Yet the Irish made up about a third of the old immigration. And then, to get the average the author adds up the percentages of the remaining races, and divides by the number of races, paying no attention to their numerical importance, and giving the same weight to the Flemish and French that he does to the Germans and Norwegians. An author who can make as many statistical blunders as this in a single sentence forfeits the confidence of the reader in his statistics in general, especially when no reference is given by which they can be verified, as is quite generally the case in this book.

The value of the book lies in its wealth of concrete illustrations of significant facts, and in its stirring plea for a better understanding and treatment of the immigrant. The author makes a strong appeal to native-born Americans to recognize their duty and opportunity toward the foreigner. Undoubtedly Dr. Roberts magnifies the efficiency and possibilities of conscious philanthropic efforts in assimilating the immigrant. He does not—he could not—exaggerate the importance of assimilation itself and the book ought to be read by every public-spirited American. But the best of these efforts are inadequate to meet the occasion while the social and industrial conditions which characterize the life of the working classes of this country persist. Dr. Roberts is an avowed anti-restrictionist, yet his book is the strongest argument which has yet appeared for a temporary restriction of immigration, until the United States shall have devised some efficient method of giving the alien that for which he comes, while safeguarding the interests of the country.

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